

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:(AS ON AMENDED SHEET(S) ANNEXED TO IPER)

1. (Original) An access network adapted to communicate with a mobile terminal and a core network portion (20) of a mobile telecommunications network, said access network comprising:

a plurality of local base stations (301) each defining a mini-cell and adapted to communicate with mobile terminals (1) located in a respective mini-cell over an unlicensed-radio interface (31);

an access network controller (303) adapted to communicate with said core network portion over a predetermined licensed mobile network interface and connected to said plurality of local base stations (301);

characterised in that

all said mini-cells are assigned a common identifier associated with said access network controller and in that

said access network controller (303) is adapted to receive a handover request containing said common identifier from said core network (20),

to respond to said handover request by assigning a handover reference to said request and to setup a communication path between a mobile station and said core network when a message containing said handover reference is received from said mobile station.

2. (Original) An access network as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said

local base stations are adapted to communicate said common identifier to said mobile terminal.

3. (Currently Amended) An access network as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~ claim 1, characterised in that said common identifier identifies a single cell address.

4. (Currently Amended) An access network as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~ claim 1, characterised in that said common identifier identifies a channel frequency utilised by said local base stations.

5. (currently Amended) An access network as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~ 1, characterised in that said common identifier identifies a base station address common to all local base stations.

6. (Currently Amended) An access network as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~ 1, characterised in that said common identifier is known to said core network.

7. (Currently Amended) An access network as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~ 1, further characterised by a fixed broadband network (302) connecting said plurality of local base stations (301) with said access network controller (303).

8. (Original) A mobile telecommunications network including a core network portion (20), at least one first access network portion (10), and at least one

second unlicensed radio access network portion (30), wherein said first and second access network portions are adapted to communicate with a mobile terminal (1) and said core network portion (20), said at least one second access network portion comprising:

a plurality of local base stations (301) each defining a mini-cell and adapted to communicate with mobile terminals (1) located in a respective mini-cell over an unlicensed-radio interface (31);

an access network controller (303) adapted to communicate with said core network portion over a predetermined licensed mobile network interface and connected with said plurality of local base stations (301),

characterised in that

all said mini-cells are assigned a common identifier associated with said access network controller,

said at least one first access network (10) is adapted to address a handover request containing said common identifier via said core network (20) to said access network controller (303) when handover of a communication with said mobile terminal to said second access network is required,

said access network controller (303) is adapted to respond to a handover request from said core network (20) by assigning a handover reference to said request and to setup a communication path between a mobile station and said core network when a message containing said handover reference is received from said mobile station.

9. (Original)

A network as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that said

local base stations are adapted to broadcast said common identifier within an associated mini-cell.

10. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in claim 8 ~~or 9~~, characterised in that said common identifier identifies a single cell address.

11. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in ~~any one of claims 8 to 10~~ claim 8, characterised in that said common identifier identifies a channel frequency utilised by said local base stations.

12. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in ~~any one of claims 8 to 11~~ claim 8, characterised in that said common identifier identifies a base station address common to all local base stations.

13. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in ~~any one of claims 8 to 12~~ claim 8, characterised in that said common identifier is known to said at least one first access network portion (10).

14. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in ~~any one of claims 8 to 13~~ claim 8, characterised by a fixed broadband network (302) connecting said plurality of local base stations (301) with said access network controller (303).

15. (Original) A method for handing over a communication with a mobile station from a cell of a public licensed mobile network to a mini-cell of an unlicensed-radio access network connected to said public mobile network, said public licensed mobile network comprising an access portion including a base station (10) defining said cell and a core network portion including a switching control part (202) connected to said base station, said unlicensed-radio access network (30) comprising a plurality of local base stations (301) each defining a mini-cell and adapted to communicate with a mobile station (1) via an unlicensed-radio interface and an access network controller (303) adapted to communicate with said local base stations and with the core network portion of said public mobile network, said method including: allocating a common identifier to all local base stations connected to said access network controller, each local base station communicating at least a part of said common identifier to a mobile station (1) located within the associated mini-cell via said unlicensed-radio interface, said access network controller (303) responding to a handover request message containing said common identifier received from the core network portion by generating a handover reference and transmitting said handover reference as a handover acknowledgment message to said core network portion (10), said access network controller (303) receiving said handover reference from said mobile station via said local base station (301) and setting up a communication path over said fixed broadband network with said local base station in response to said received

16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15 further characterised by the steps of:

said base station (10) of said public licensed mobile network receiving said common identifier from said mobile station, identifying said access network controller (303) using said common identifier and generating a handover request message addressed to said access network controller (303) via said switching control part (202).

17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15 or 16, further characterised by the steps of: said mobile station (1) upon receipt of said common identifier transmitting a report to said base station (10) adapted to trigger handover irrespective of other frequencies received by said mobile station.